

(WASHINGTON, DC) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that he has secured funding at the request of Hood County leaders to continue research efforts aimed at protecting Lake Granbury under the 2011 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which passed its subcommittee July 15th.

Edwards, vice chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee said, *“Lake Granbury is the engine of Granbury’s tourism economy and a tremendous asset for all of Hood County, and I believe protecting the water quality in the lake is key to quality of life, and economic development for years to come.”*

Granbury Mayor Rickie Pratt said, *“On behalf of all of us in the Lake Granbury area, I want to express my appreciation of Congressman Edwards’ efforts in securing the additional funding for research to protect the water integrity and quality of our lake.”* Hopefully this research will provide all lake communities with answers to issues concerning fertilizer, golden algae and water table impacts upon a very vital commodity of our community, Lake Granbury.”

Specifically, Edwards secured \$1 million to continue vital research and provide critical educational programs and public outreach that will be necessary for the development of a

watershed protection plan for Lake Granbury. Texas AgriLife Extension Service will partner with multiple agencies (including Texas Water Resources Institute, Brazos River Authority and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to develop and conduct targeted educational programs to help landowners, homeowners, businesses, and municipalities reduce sources of pollution. Edwards also added \$100,000 for the ongoing work at Lake Granbury to the 2011 Agriculture Appropriations bill, which also passed subcommittee recently.

The funding follows \$1.5 million secured by Edwards since 2005 for research aimed at reducing golden algae blooms, which have been responsible for fish kills in the lake. The bills must still pass the House, Senate, and be signed into law.